

GIANTS ARE COMING INTO FORM; TEAM IS MAKING GREAT SHOWING

Loberst Has Rounded Splendidly; Pitching Staff Is One of the Best in History of the Club, With Perritt in Better Shape Now Than He Was at Any Time Last Year; Mathewson Takes Things Easy.

BY SAM CRANE.

BAUMONT, Texas, April 5.—The Polo Grounders are coming around to a state of condition that makes them nearly fit for the big show that will be started April 12. Their recent work in the exhibition games in Fort Worth and Houston has shown most encouraging improvement in the playing form of the players who have been the last to get down to proper weight. George Burns, Hans Loberst and Big Jeff Tesreau have afforded evidence that they will be ready for the coming of the championship season. All three had to reduce considerably more than their fellow players and they have all trained harder during the time since they left Marlin than before.

This was owing to the condition of the field at Emerson park, that was baked by the sun as hard as an asphalt pavement. This was terribly punishing on the feet of the heavier men, who were in consequence unable to stand the strenuous training that McGraw insists on. The ball parks in other cities the team played in were much softer and easier on the players' feet, and as morning practice was taken daily in Dallas there was steady improvement.

Loberst Improved. Loberst has come around like a quarter horse under the improved field conditions, and strange to say his throwing arm has grown stronger as his other physical ailments improved. He is much like the Loberst who set such a fast pace the first three weeks of last year's championship season, when his sprightliness and power caused no end of complimentary remarks and predictions that he was just the man McGraw had been looking for to plug up that big hole at third base.

Now if Hans can go along as he is going just at present there need be little worry about where the Giants will finish, for they will be sure to finish away up in the race.

The pitching staff looks very sweet, the best ever to me, taking it all around. This fellow Anderson is going to cut a whole lot of ice in the National league and so will Kramer. The latter was sent from Dallas to join the second

team, but that was because McGraw thinks so favorably of him that he wants him to get more work than he would be enabled to get by staying with the regulars on their trip home.

Perritt in Good Shape. Perritt is in better form than he was at any time last season. He is surely due for a good year. He shows it in every move he makes in the box. Tesreau will be the same winning pitcher he was last season—a standby—as will Strood, who was fit when he left Marlin with the second team. He was merely sent along with the latter as a sort of steadier for the rookies.

Bob Henton is ready right now, and still claims he is the best left-handed pitcher in the National league. Palermo is a reliable youngster. He is nearly as good a fielding pitcher as George Witte, was, and I know that is saying a whole lot. The Cuban south-paw slogger is also a very good batter for a pitcher. He is, in fact, a natural ballplayer, but possibly, owing to lack of experience in big league baseball, may become unduly excited. He will overcome that, however.

Mathewson is still taking things easy, as is his way, but his split hand is well and he is practicing daily.

Do not be surprised, you New York fans, if you see the "Old Master" flash this year with much of his old-time brilliancy. He looks very capable, of doing so.

Doyle was never better in his baseball career, while Merkle and Fletcher are the same old hard workers and good as gold.

Benjie Kauff is still a bit shy with his bluebonnet, but he is becoming more steady at bat.

Rough and Kelly will cause Robertson to be missed but slightly, although Dave was a wonder in spots, and would be permanently a phenom if he would only settle down to what business he has on hand when in a game of baseball. I don't look for Dave to report until along in May.

Hariden and Wendell are both catching improvement day by day. The latter is showing improvement day by day. He has hit very timely of late, and is somewhat of a clean-up man.

KELLY---AT HOME

BY BRIGGS



Feds Make Good In Big Leagues Other Recruits Sent To Bushes

BY FRANK G. MENKE.

NEW YORK, April 5.—The expected has come to pass. From out of the southern training camps have come stories that tell of two happenings in keeping with the almost unanimous predictions.

(1) Ninety percent of the "bushers" who got a tryout failed to deliver.

(2) Practically all the Federal league players have delivered in a way that has won regular berths for them.

There were many folks who had the impression that the Federal leaguers couldn't stand the major league gaff, that they would show up as "bloomers" when in job competition with the men who were regulars for the National and American leagues last season.

But the Feds, in practically every instance, have shown themselves to be as good or better than their rivals.

Feds Who Made Good. The Giants made good with a whoop. The Braves got three—and all three delivered. The Yankees took two Fed regulars of 1915 and one who would have played with the Feds in 1916 had the league existed. Every one becomes a Yankee regular. Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Brooklyn also tried out some Feds. They were not in a class with those secured by the other clubs, yet each has shown enough to merit his retention.

It was expected that Benjie Kauff would star, and so far he has. He is just beginning to hit. His drives have all the power that he showed in a Federal league uniform. Bill Hariden, the regular catcher for the 1915 New York Feds, has won the backstopping job with the Giants. He is being called "the best all-around catcher the Giants have had for six or seven years."

Anderson Giant Hunter. Fred Anderson was a star hurler for the Buffalo Feds last season. He has shown as much brilliancy in a Giant uniform and will be one of the pitching regulars. Eddie Bousch reported late but he had demonstrated beyond a question of doubt that he is a wonderful outfielder.

Lee Magee is one of the stars of the rejuvenated Yankee team. Nick Cullop, the best left-hander in the 1915 Gilmore circuit, has won—with ease—a regular turn in the pitching division of the Yankees. Joe Gedeon, a veteran of the Pacific Coast league last year and later signed up by the Feds, will be the Yankee second sacker.

Konetchky Strengthens Braves. Ed Konetchky played the first sack for the Braves in the training camp. He hasn't been played in years. The big Bohemian has convinced the skeptics that not only has he not gone back, but that he has come forward.

both as a fielder and hitter. Allen had Konetchky playing for the 1915 Pittsburgh Feds, will be among Staling's hurling mainstays this summer.

The ratio of flippers among the "bushers" this year, however, has been on a par with that of other years. Only about one out of every ten youngster that trekked the southern trail will come back with a major league job. The majority of the successful ones, however, were unable to get berths. The best they could do was to win utility jobs.

The \$5000 Flipper. The major clubs expended something like \$250,000 during 1915 for promising-looking rookies. But most of the money has been wasted. The "second Ty Cobbs," the "new Christy Mathewson" and the "better than Eddie Collins" have gone back whence they came. They were wonders in the minors, but when subjected to the big league test they failed.

Conspicuous among the failures is Dan Tipple, pitching for Indianapolis last season. He set the American association a-fire with his brilliant work. His hurling feats were heralded far and wide. An army of scouts looked him over and pronounced him a star of the first water. And then the clubs began bidding for him.

Blades and higher shot the big price. "Nine thousand dollars" yelled the owners of the New York Yankees. The other bidders became silent and Tipple was turned over to the Rubber-Huston combination. Great things were expected of Tipple. But he failed.

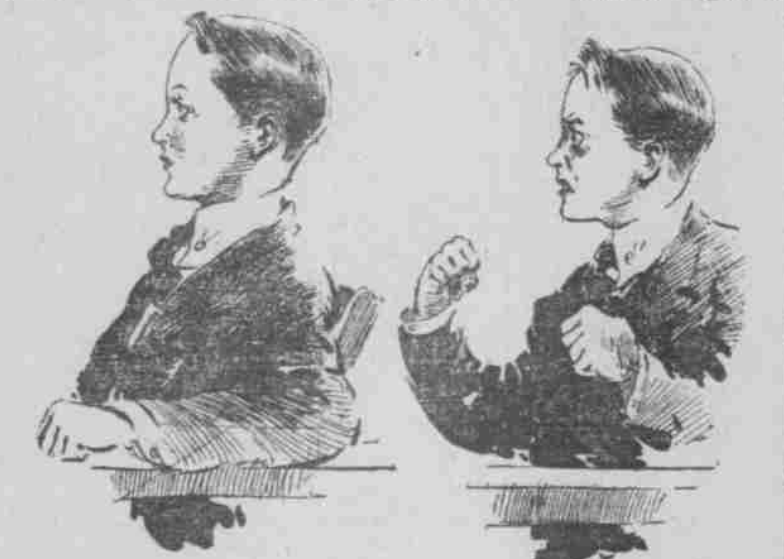
His curve ball was easy to hit; his speed, described as "blinding" never caused a blink in the Macon camp. Tipple was an AA wonder, but not good enough to fulfill the Yankee standard. And so Tipple, the \$5000 flippie, is going back.

STECHER WINS TWO FALLS IN 5 MINUTES' WRESTLING. Duluth, Minn., April 5.—Joe Stecher, of Dodge, Neb., won from Fred Reel, of Mayaville, Minn., here Tuesday night in straight falls, getting both at the expiration of eight minutes of wrestling.

GIANTS WIN FROM NEW ORLEANS. New Orleans, La., April 5.—With the score tied in the ninth inning, outfielder Bousch hit safely and brought in the run that allowed the Nationals of New York to beat the New Orleans Southern Association team here Tuesday, 5 to 4.

PHILLIPS BEAT CHARLESTON. Charleston, S. C., April 5.—Philadelphia National defeated the Charleston team of the South Atlantic league Tuesday, 5 to 1.

AT A SLUGGING MATCH



RIGHT near me sat a young boy of 14 or 15 years, with his father. Before the fight started I noticed him, and thought what a mean little fellow he was. During the fight I again glanced his way. The look of an animal on his face. He swayed and ducked with each blow of the fighters, oblivious to everything but the sight of the blood, and didn't even hear his father when that worthy said, "That's the stuff! Hey, son!"—Hal Coffman, writing of the Willard-Moran fight.

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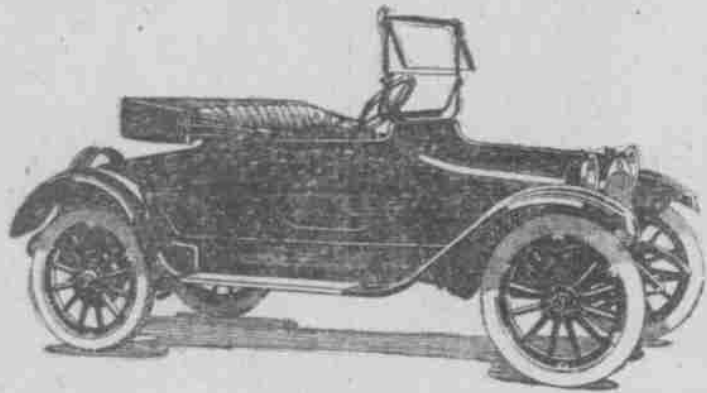
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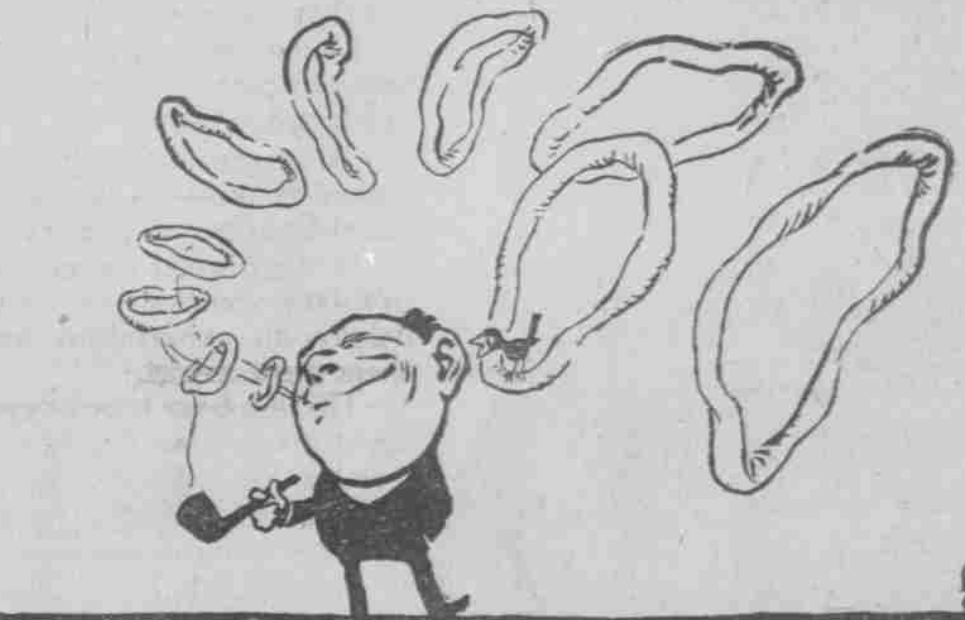
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